

Serial No. 10/627,984

Attorney Docket No. 26A-008

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REMARKS

Claims 10, 12, 26-30, and 35, 36, 38 and 40 are pending. Claims 1-9, 11, 13-25, 31-34, 37, 39 and 41 have been canceled. Claims 10, 12, 27-30, 35 and 42 have been allowed. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 38-41 were objected to for depending on a rejected base claim but were said to be allowable if written in independent form. Claim 26 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 41. Therefore, claim 26 is essentially claim 41 written in independent form, and claim 26 should be in condition for allowance. Claim 36 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 39. Therefore, claim 36 is essentially claim 39 written in independent form, and claim 36 should be in condition for allowance.

Claim 26 was rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Bowers *et al.* As mentioned above, claim 26 has been amended and is now the same as the former claim 41. Therefore, this rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 36 and 37 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bowers *et al.* in view of Dominissini. Claim 37 has been canceled and thus will not be discussed. As mentioned above, claim 36 has been amended and is now the same as former claim 39. Therefore, the rejection of claim 36 should be withdrawn.

Claims 38 and 40 have been amended to depend on claim 36.

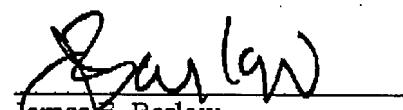
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In view of the foregoing, the applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

If there are any problems with the payment of fees, please charge any underpayments and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,



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